

Govardhan Leela (Annakut) - Play/Skit

Characters:

- *Krishna*
- *Nand Baba*
- *Mother Yashoda*
- *Brahma*
- *Indra*
- *Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Narrator 3, Narrator 4, Narrator 5, Narrator 6 (Min 1 - Max 6)*
- *Braj Basi 1, Braj Basi 2, Braj Basi 3 (Min 1 - Max 3)*
- *Cloud Soldiers (Min 1 - Max 3)*
- *Braj Basis (gop/gopis & Mother Yashoda) (Min 3 - Max 'n')*

Stage Set Up:

The stage will be divided in 2 sides or sections

Section 1: Sky and Indra Lok, Indra with an army of his Cloud Soldiers. Brahma enters here.

Section 2: Govardhan Parvat, several Braj Basis, Krishna and his family are under the attack of heavy rain.

ACT 1

Narrator 1:

Shri Vallabhachar Ki Jai. Sarve Vaishnav Ne Jai Shri Krishna. It is with great joy that we students of _____ are blessed with the opportunity to perform a play on Govardhan Puja.

Before we commence on this journey we pay our respects and seek blessings from our guru, teachers, parents and all elders assembled in this hall today to witness this divine leela.

Govardhan puja, or Annakoot (translated as “a mountain of food”) as it is also known, is a Hindu festival in which devotees prepare and offer 56 varieties food to thakorji as a mark of gratitude. This day commemorates the incident in the Bhagavata Purana when Krishna lifted Govardhan hill on his pinky to provide the villagers of Braj shelter from torrential rains.

Narrator 2:

Krishna had convinced the people of Braj to give up Indra worship and worship mount Govardhan instead. After the initial opposition everyone was convinced and thus celebrated the first Govardhan puja with great festivities. Indra was not happy seeing this and decided to punish the people of Braj with life threatening rains.

Indra: (Very angry)

Now the Braj basis will know what it means to give up my Puja. O my mighty Cloud Soldiers go wipe out Braj from the map. Unleash rains and storms the likes of which have never been seen. Go my Cloud soldiers make this happen at once!

Narrator 3: (While narrator speaks - Cloud Soldiers start doing action of throwing water on Braj Basis, the Braj Basis scatter around and look scared! Krishna stays calm)

Soon the Braj Basis were under attack of life threatening rains and cloudburst, sent to wipe them out. The Cloud Soldiers of Indra were at work following orders. Not a corner of Braj was spared.

Braj Basi 1: (Very anxious and scared)

O fellow Braj basis run for your life! But where can we go? Storms as far as my eyes can see, skies filled with storms! A day like this has never come up on us! Trahimaam! Trahimaam! Trahimaam!

Braj Basi 2: (Very scared)

Where can we find shelter for nothing seemed to be strong enough against this mighty cloudburst. What will happen to all of us. Who will protect us! Trahimaam!

Nand Baba: (Sounding troubled and self introspecting)

Look Krishna: "Do you see, son? This is no ordinary rainstorm. This seems to me to be the punishment of our transgression. It is difficult to escape the wrath of Gods. That is why we worshipped Lord Indra all these years, Krishna," Now, innocent people are suffering because of your idea... what to we do now?"

Krishna: (Confidently looking at Indra Lok)

Ah, vain Indra!. I understand your plan. You want to teach us a lesson, don't you? But first, you need one! Soon I will crush your ego. O people of Braj. Look at me. Do not run. Do not panic!

Narrator 4:

The Braj basis looked at Krishna miserably. They had known the boy for long. They knew that he was not an ordinary mortal and possessed some mysterious powers. But what can the boy possibly do in such a situation?

Braj Basi 3: (Self pity)

"This is all our fault!". "We insulted Indra and now he's punishing us."

Krishna: (Confident)

Yes, what you say is right. This is indeed an evil plot of Lord Indra, But like before, Govardhan would help us once again. Come this way to the mountain and I will show you how!"

Narrator 5: (While Narrator speaks - People gather around Krishna and he does the action of lifting mount Govardhan on the pinky)

Krishna looked up and smiled at the clouds. In a blink of the eye, he lifted Govardhana Mountain, like an umbrella over the people. People forgot to breathe. A small boy had lifted a mountain on his little finger!

Indra: (Bewildered, holding his head in disbelief)

How can a mere child lift a mountain? I have not ever seen such a feat achieved by anybody, leave alone a child.

Brahma (Enters Indra Lok)

You should have understood it by now! Pride and arrogance has clouded your common sense, Indra! Don't you know that Krishna is a divine child? Aren't you aware that he's an incarnation of Lord Vishnu? Shame on you!"

Indra: (Sorrowful)

I apologize krishna please forgive me. I was blinded by my ego. Please accept my humble apology. Shri Govardhan Nath Ki Jai, Shri Giriraj Dharan Ki Jai! Cloud soldiers stop the rains at once, please shower Govardhan nathji with flowers!

Narrator 6: (While narrator speaks - Cloud soldiers showering petals on Krishna)

Every Braj basi whooped in delight at their darling boy for his strength and wisdom. They now saw what a godly child lived amidst them. They composed songs in praise of the Lord, singing of this miraculous feat. Shouts of "Long Live brave Krishna!" seemed to echo everywhere and it continues even today.

Shri Vallabhachal Nath Ki Jai, Shri Govardhan Nath Ki Jai, Shyam Sundar Shri Yamuna Maharani Ki Jai, Aaj ke Anand Ki Jai...

THE END
